accord that same respect to the faiths of others.

Unfortunately, words have sometimes been used carelessly, and these words sometimes denigrate the faith of others. When the teachings of a faith are described as ''a culture of death'' because they hold that the potential to save and heal human lives is an integral part of valuing human life, that faith and its adherence are being slandered. How dare anyone slander the faiths of many Americans as ''a culture of death.'' God does not speak to one faith alone.

We hear lots of speeches about respecting people of faith and the need to bring faith into the public square. The people who make those speeches should respect all faiths. We should vote our consciences, but we should not denigrate the faith and consciences of the millions of Americans who seek to preserve life and end suffering and who believe that embryonic stem cell research can save lives and therefore embodies the highest morality.

□ 1630

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM).

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, most of my colleagues that support this bill are from the pro-choice field. I come at it from the pro-life section. A lot of times I disagree with my colleagues because I think in some cases they would go further, and a fact that many people will not take under their wing is that many of these stem cells are going to be thrown away, either cryogenically they deteriorate and they throw them away, or a woman says ''I don't want to keep them for 1,000 years'' and they discard them. They literally throw them in the toilet.

Now we can save life. They say there is no good to be done. Animal studies have shown that work with the spinal cord, heart and others have been successful. We have not done it on humans. If you take a look at some of the blood diseases with bone marrow used, that is stem cell.

And we have hope in the future. I met a young man that had AIDS at NIH, and he only thought about dying. He said, ''Duke, all I need is hope to survive.'' This gives that hope, and I think it has promise.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the seminal question that we address is, should Americans be using their tax dollars to fund research that kills a living human embryo? My answer to that is an emphatic ''no.''

It is our duty to ensure that we spend our money on things that work, and there are no therapies in humans that have ever successfully been carried out using embryonic stem cells. And that is really what this whole debate is about, paying for what works and paying for it in a way that is consistent with the morals of our taxpayers.

Look, even the President and CEO of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, a group that is a strong supporter of destroying human embryos for research, he said, ''There have been more promising results in adult stem cells than there have been in embryonic stem cells.'' He predicted that their foundation would soon be spending more on adult cells research than embryonic research.

Private organizations like these are choosing to use their research dollars on what works, adult stem cells research. Washington must also spend its money efficiently on what works, while representing the values of the taxpayer.

I urge a ''no'' vote on Federal funding for killing living human embryos.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman that just preceded me, speaking to the House, said that he did not think this experimentation would work. Well, there is no way it will ever work if we do not allow the research to take place. There can be nothing that is more pro-life than trying to pursue research that scientists tell us will lead to cures for MS and diabetes and Parkinson's and other terrible diseases that people now suffer and die from.

Some people have said, Well, let us have an alternative; let us use the stem cells from the umbilical cord.

Mr. Speaker, that is not a replacement for embryonic stem cell research that would occur if we passed H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. We need to ensure that scientists have access to all types of stem cells, both adult and embryonic.

Rather than opening the doors to research, the President's policy of stopping this work at NIH has set the United States back. It has meant that researchers who see the promise are leaving the National Institutes of Health. It means the edge that this country has had as a leader of research is now falling behind and we look to other countries who are going to take our place.

For the sake of those who are suffering, for the sake of what science can bring to us, for the sake of life, I urge the adoption of this legislation. I do not think it is a good enough excuse to hold up a clump of cells and say, this we value and this we will protect, and then to look at our friends and our colleagues, people we know and people we do not even know, and tell them their lives we do not value.

The United States is poised to assume a role of leading the world in this promising field. Vote for this legislation that will make it possible.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT).

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this issue is more than facts and figures. For me it is personal. It is about my children, Madison, Jeb and Ross Barrett. It is about my nieces and my nephews, Hayden and English and Jason and Andrew. They are not just names, they are living, breathing human beings. They are people I care about, they are people I love. It is my family. And they began life as an embryo.

Let us be clear, embryonic stem cell research is completely legal. What we are talking about today is whether taxpayer dollars should be used to destroy potential life, and, for me, life must supersede all other considerations, especially for the purpose of medical experimentation.

Life is so precious, Mr. Speaker, and as long as I am a United States Congressman, I will do everything I can to protect it.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which will expand funding for embryonic stem cell research, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of it.

What I would like to say today is the following: Scientists have informed us, the professional scientists in our country, not political scientists, but scientists, and what they have told us from their considerable work and research is that this issue represents hope. It represents hope for the cure of diseases that plague so many of our people, from juvenile diabetes all the way to the other part of life, which is Alzheimer's, and so many diseases in between.

This Congress and previous Congresses have seen fit to double the funding of the National Institutes of Health. I have always called them the National Institutes of Hope.

We are now on the threshold, we are now on the threshold of debating an issue that can bring hope to our people. It is up to us to have an ethical standard in this debate. That is why no human cloning is a part of the bill that I support. Why? Because no one supports that.

The American people are decent and they want an ethical standard, but they also want their Nation's leaders to continue to give hope to them, hope for the cure of these diseases that cause so much human suffering. We have a responsibility in terms of our compassion, in terms of the instruction that our Nation's scientists have given to us.

So I urge my colleagues to support this bill. It is an ethical bill, and it is a bill that is all about hope.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill which will expand funding for embryonic stem cell research, and I'm proud to be an original cosponsor of it.

Under this bill embryonic stem cell lines will be eligible for Federal funding only if the embryos used to derive stem cells were originally created for fertility treatment purposes and are in excess of clinical need.